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**HOUSE APPROVES \$8 Million for northwoods
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE, OBEY SAYS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. –“ Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) announced today that the House of Representatives has approved his request for \$8 million in next year’s Energy and Water Appropriation bill for the Northern Wisconsin Environmental Assistance Program, which helps pay for necessary improvements to water related infrastructure in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, and Iron Counties.

“The basic building blocks for community growth, like access to clean water, good roads, and efficient sewers, can cost local taxpayers a lot. That’s why I’ve worked with local officials throughout my district to ensure that our local taxpayers get a helping hand in

bearing those costs,” said Obey, the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. “We created the Northern Wisconsin Environmental Assistance Program to help Northwoods communities grow while protecting Lake Superior, without putting too big a burden on local taxpayers. This money is intended to help the federal government continue to do just that.”

The Northern Wisconsin Environmental Assistance Program “also known as “Section 154” was created by Obey in 2000 to assist Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas and Iron counties finance work for repairing, expanding and upgrading water related infrastructure, including wells, sewer systems, dams, and wastewater treatment facilities. Over the last few years, Obey has secured more than \$26 million for projects under this special authority.

Projects funded by the program are selected by a special committee composed of representatives from the local communities and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

However, “the bill must still be approved by the Senate and signed by the President before it becomes law , but having these funds included in today’s House approved version means that a major hurdle has been cleared,” Obey noted.

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